



ASSASSINATION GAME

# GAMBIT



PART  
2 OF 3

#18

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WHO  
CONTROLS  
THE  
GAME?



JULY

07

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NICIEZA  
PAQUETTE  
PARSONS



REMY LEDEAU HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE OUTSIDER. ORPHANED AT BIRTH, HE WAS ADOPTED BY THE LEGENDARY THIEVES GUILD OF NEW ORLEANS, WHO OFTEN SHUNNED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS STRANGE BURNING EYES. EVENTUALLY, HE REALIZED HE IS A MUTANT -- GIFTED AT BIRTH WITH THE ABILITY TO CHARGE INANIMATE OBJECTS WITH BIOKINETIC ENERGY THAT IS EXPLOSIVELY RELEASED! HE'S CHARMING. HE'S DEADLY. **5 T A N L E E P R E S E N T S**  
**THE MOST MYSTERIOUS X-MAN OF ALL!**

# GAMBIT

THE ANSWER WAS "YES".  
ALL OF MY BELIEFS HAD BEEN  
BUILT ON A FOUNDATION  
OF LIES...

... BUT IT WAS A FOUNDATION I FELT  
I'D FINALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH.

AND NOW, SEEMINGLY OUT OF  
NOWHERE, COMES A MAN  
READY TO TEAR EVEN THAT  
FLIMSY FOUNDATION APART!

THE TRAPPINGS OF FEDERAL  
AGENT CARL DENT EXPOSE THE  
LIE THAT IS THE X-CUTIONER, A  
LIE I AM ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH.

FREEZE,  
PAL! YOU'RE  
UNDER  
ARREST!

IT'S FUNNY... ONLY AFTER I  
FINALLY LOST SIGHT OF THE  
X-CUTIONER DID CARL DENT!  
COME BACK INTO FOCUS AGAIN.

AND NOW... NOW I  
DON'T KNOW WHAT  
I'M LOOKING AT.

## WORKING THE TREADMILL

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**KAPOW**

YEAH, THAT'LL  
WORK, DENT.  
"YOU'RE UNDER  
ARREST."

AN' THEY  
SAY FEDS HAVE  
NO SENSE OF  
HUMOR...

LEBEAU IS RIGHT. BULLETS'LL  
DO NOTHING AGAINST THE ALIEN  
ARMOR OF THE X-CUTIONER.

I SHOULD  
KNOW.

X-CUTIONER  
HISTORY 101:

AFTER MY MENTOR,  
FRED DUNCAN, HAD BEEN  
KILLED BY MUTANTS --

-- I TOOK SOME REMNANT ALIEN  
ARTIFACTS I'D FOUND FROM A  
SECRET FEDERAL LOCKUP, CREATED  
A CUSTOMIZED SUIT OF ARMOR,  
AND DECIDED TO MAKE MY LIVING BY  
HUNTING DOWN EVIL MUTANTS.

LATER, I BECAME  
FIXATED ON ONE  
OF MY TARGETS:  
REMY LEBEAU,  
A.K.A. GAMBIT --  
MUTANT, THIEF,  
MEMBER OF THE  
OUTLAW X-MEN --

I USED TO WEAR  
THAT ARMOR -- OR  
AT LEAST A VARIATION  
OF IT!

-- AND THE MAN  
WHOSE LIFE I'M  
NOW TRYING  
TO SAVE!

WE NEED  
TO BUY US  
SOME TIME --  
AFTER MY  
FIGHTS WITH  
BULLSEYE AN'  
CONSTRUCTOR --  
I'M BARELY  
STANDIN'.

SO I'LL PLANT A  
SURPRISE FOR X-C --  
TIME DELAY BIOKINETIC  
CHARGES ON TH'  
CARDS.

UH...  
YOU KNOW  
I'M A MUTANT,  
RIGHT?

YES.  
VAL COOPER  
ASSIGNED ME  
TO FOLLOW UP  
REPORTS OF A  
CONTRACT ON  
YOUR LIFE...

YEAH, WELL,  
TH' SECOND  
YOU OPENED THAT  
CAR DOOR FOR ME,  
"OBSERVER STATUS"  
WENT OUT TH' WINDOW!

FINE BY  
ME, LEBEAU...

SEE LAST ISSUE  
FOR ALL THE  
RAVING -- RM



... I HAVE  
SOME... WITH  
PAST EXPERIENCE  
WITH SUPERHUMAN  
ACTIVITY...

MONTHS AGO, MY PLAN  
TO APPREHEND LEBEAU  
FAILED, BUT EVEN MORE  
THAN THAT...

... I FAILED TO UPHOLD A  
RESPECT FOR THE LAW  
AND JUSTICE THAT HAD  
BEEN INGRAINED IN MY  
HEAD SINCE CHILDHOOD.

I HAD BECOME THE  
X-CUTIONER, WITHOUT  
A DOUBT, BUT I'D  
ALSO BECOME THE  
JUDGE AND JURY,  
PASSING SENTENCE  
WITHOUT REGARD  
TO EVIDENCE AND  
DUE PROCESS.



AS THE ABANDONED  
SPACE STATION I'D  
USED AS A BASE  
COLLAPSED INTO A  
BLACK HOLE, I  
CHOSE TO DIE.

BUT WITH THAT  
CHOICE CAME A  
BURNING DESIRE  
TO DO IT ALL OVER  
AGAIN... TO DO  
IT RIGHT.

FAIL-SAFE SYSTEMS  
KICKED IN AND  
TELEPORTED MY BODY  
OUT OF THE ARMOR  
SHELL AND BACK  
TO EARTH.



I'D ASSUMED THAT  
THE ARMOR FELL INTO  
THE VOID OF THE BLACK  
HOLE FOREVER. --

-- BUT OBVIOUSLY,  
SINCE SOMEONE HAS  
TO BE INSIDE THE  
ARMOR, THAT ASSUMPTION  
WAS WRONG!

WACHOOM

WACHOOM

ALL IN  
EIGHT 45-  
MILLI-  
SECOND

FWRUMPH



AT MOST, LEBEAU'S  
TRICK BUYS US TWO  
MINUTES.

WATCHING GAMBIT -- EXHAUSTED  
AS HE IS -- STILL MOVING LIKE  
A GREASED EEL...

...I REMEMBER THAT HE HAS  
ENOUGH SKILL AND EXPERIENCE  
TO MAKE TWO MINUTES SEEM  
LIKE TWO YEARS!

WVVT

UNLESS OF COURSE,  
X-CUTIONER HAS  
BACKUP...

FLYING  
BALLS?

VEEET

ARGH!

FRYIN'  
BALLS IS  
MORE LIKE  
IT.

THEY'RE  
STANDARD  
ISSUE FOR  
JACK FARLEY --  
ONE OF X-C'S  
THUGS-FOR-  
HIRE.

BUT JACK,  
DON'T KNOW  
JACK...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!  
HE BLEW UP FARLEY'S  
REMOTE ORBS JUST BY  
LOOKING AT THEM!

LIBEAU, BEEN SOME  
IMPROVEMENTS,  
HUH?

JACKIE,

SHAME  
I CAN'T SAY  
TH' SAME  
FOR YOU!

THE  
NAME'S  
FIREBALLS  
NOW!

YEAH,  
RIGHT. JUS'  
FOR THAT, YOU  
DESERVE...

... THIS!

KRAK

LEBEAU'S POWERS  
HAVE CHANGED --  
IMPROVED.

BUT AS TIRED --  
AND BEATEN --  
AS HE SEEMED  
TEN MINUTES  
AGO --

-- IT ALMOST APPEARS  
AS IF USING HIS BIOKINETIC  
ENERGIES IS INVIGORATING  
HIM!

HE DIVES BACK  
TO WHERE THE  
X-CUTIONER  
FELL... BUT  
DIDN'T HE  
REALIZE...

... HIS TWO  
MINUTES  
ARE UP!

HI.

OF COURSE  
HE DOES.

WACHOOOM

THAT  
WAS SMOOTH,  
LEBEAU.

YOU SHOULD  
SEE ME UP  
AGAINST  
FIRST-RATE  
BADDIES!

IS THAT WHAT  
HIS NATURAL  
ARROGANCE --

-- OR WHAT HE  
REALLY THINKS  
OF ME?

AND WHY SHOULD  
I EVEN CARE?



HOW MUCH DO I  
STILL HAVE LEFT  
IN ME THAT'S  
WRONG AND  
SCREWED-UP?

OR LIBEAU,  
FOR THAT  
MATTER --

-- CONSIDERING  
HOW MANY PEOPLE  
ANSWERED  
THE CALL TO  
KILL HIM!



1 BLOCKS AWAY...

OH,  
C'MON, I  
LET LIBEAU  
GO!

"BEAU-GO,  
BEAU-GO."

"OH NO,  
BEAU-GO  
ON A  
POGO."

SHUT UP,  
DEADPOOL!

YEAH, YOU'RE  
JUST LUCKY YOU  
CAUGHT ME IN SUCH  
A "JOANIE LOVES  
CHACHI" KINDA MOOD.

I AM BELLA DONNA  
BOUDREAUX,  
DAUGHTER OF MARIUS,  
MATRIARCH OF  
THE ASSASSIN'S  
GUILD...

... THAT YOU  
EVEN BREATHE,  
MERCENARY, IS  
SOLELY AT MY  
DISCRETION.



WELL,  
PRETTY LADY,  
WHY NOT BE  
INDISCREET AND  
SLIDE THAT BO  
STAFF FOUR INCHES  
HIGHER...

DID I  
SAY FOUR?  
I MEANT  
TWO...



YOUR PARTNER,  
THE CONSTRICTOR,  
ABDUCTED GAMBIT  
FROM HIS REFUGE WITH THE  
THIEVES GUILD. YOU THEN  
RENDERED HIM UNCONSCIOUS --

-- AND ALLOWED  
REMY TO ESCAPE WHEN  
HE OFFERED YOU TRIPLE  
THE VALUE OF THE CONTRACT  
ON HIS LIFE. AM I CORRECT?

AS RIGHT  
AS NIGHT! GOT  
THE CHECK RIGHT  
HERE. AND, UH,  
THANKS FOR  
THE RECAP.

WROTE  
YOU SON OF  
A...



THWAK

ugh







WE TAKE THE EIGHT (LONG) BLOCKS TO THE FULTON FISH MARKET AT FULL SPRINT.

RIVER MEANS WATER MEANS STOPPING MEANS SITTING DUCKS.

CARL, RELAX. TH' GUILD KEEPS A BOAT DOCKED HERE.

WE'LL TAKE IT TO THE SAFEHOUSE ON STATEN ISLAND.

WHO WOULD WANT TO GO THERE?

THAT'S PRECISELY WHY IT MAKES SUCH A SAFE HOUSE.

I STILL DON'T LIKE IT, MIDDLE OF THE WATER LEAVES US VULNERABLE TO --

AAAGH!

I SUDDENLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YER SAYIN', CARL!

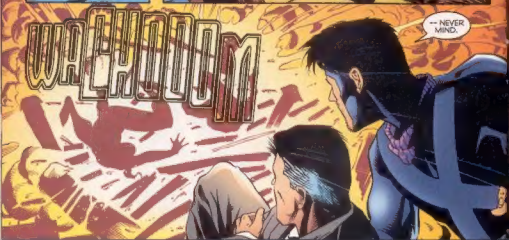
ZE BLADE WAS INTENDED FOR YOU, LeBERU!

I SIMPLY DESPISE WHEN CIVILIANS GET IN THE WAY OF A CLEAN KILL!

BATROC AND ZARAN, MERCENARIES FOR HIRE.

THEY STARTED THIS WHOLE ASSASSINATION GAME BY ATTACKING LeBERU IN WESTCHESTER WEEKS AGO.

LEBERU, BLADE, -- KILL



OF THE SKILL HE SO CASUALLY EMPLOYS.

IT'S A PITY HE'S SO CASUALLY EMPLOYED BY THE CITY.

HE'D COME TO THINK OF IT: WHO WOULDN'T WANT HIM DEAD? (HE SAID WITH A SMILE.)

YOUR ARM NEEDS TO BE PATCHED UP, CARL.

DON'T

CROSSBONE'S HANDS ARE CRAWLING OUT OF THE SEWERS NOW!

THESE GUYS GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA AND WALKED AWAY SEVERAL TIMES!

HOW ON EARTH WILL I MANAGE TO DO THIS?

GLSS

WAP

ANSWER: EASILY!





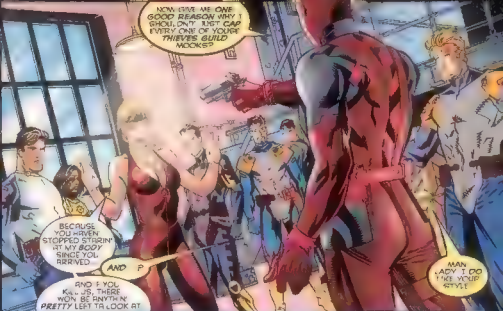


C'MON!  
I LET  
U FREAK  
GO!

SHARPEST  
BEAG GO

NOW  
DE JA VU!  
ANYONE ELSE  
HEAR AN  
ECHOP

TODAYAYAY  
I CONSIDER MYSELF  
THE LUCKIEST  
BASTARD  
THE FACE OF THE  
BASTARD



NOW GIVE ME ONE  
GOOD REASON WHY I  
SHOULDN'T JUST CAP  
EVERY ONE OF YOUR  
THIEVES BUILD  
MOCKES

BECAUSE  
YOU HAVEN  
STOPPED STARRIN'  
AT MY BODY  
SINCE YOU  
ARRIVED

AND P

AND F YOU  
KILL US, THERE  
WON BE ANYTHIN'  
PRETTY LEFT TO LOOK AT

MAN  
LADY I DO  
LIKE YOUR  
STYLE



CONSTRUCTOR!

DEADPOOL  
KNOCKED YOU  
OUT AND TOOK  
THE CONTRACT  
FOR HIMSELF!



FOD  
WHA --P



HEY  
GRINGE-  
BOY! THAT  
HAS NOT  
COOL! THE  
SNAKE IS MY  
ROOMMATE!

BUT YOU  
BETRAYED  
HIM

YEAH, BUT  
HE DIDN'T HAVE  
TO KNOW  
THAT



M'KHEE  
DEADPOOL,  
5% YOU'S  
PLURIT  
WE  
ONLY WAN TA  
HELP A MEMBER OF  
OUR  
FAMILY.

OKAY,  
OKAY, ANYTHIN  
TO SHUT UP THOSE  
MARBLE MOUTH  
ACCENTS!

LIKE I  
TOLD THOSE OTHER  
WACKOS, EARNIN'  
WAS HURTIN' WHEN HE  
LEFT "THE CLOSEST"  
HOSPITAL --

-- WOULD BE  
ST. VINCENT'S.

NOW  
YOU'RE LUCKY  
I GOT CHINESE  
FOOD COMIN' OR  
I'D KILL ALL'A  
YOU!

YEAH  
THE MANSON  
FAMILY IS WHAT  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE!

ACTUALLY  
ASSASSINS  
GOT HERE  
FORE US

MAN  
THAT REMINDS  
ME I FORGOT TO  
ORDER SOME  
STEAMED  
DUMPLINGS

WHYSE I'LL BUYIN'  
SOME ROUND  
LATER?

OH, AN  
BY TH' WAY,  
THE CHECK  
YOU TORE UP  
WAS REAL

DEMY'S  
GOT ACCESS  
TO RICHES EVEN  
BELLA DONNA  
DON' KNOW  
ABOUT

O'OM!  
WHERE'S  
THE SCOTCH  
TAPE!

Y'KNOW,  
THEO, IT NEVER  
SHES I' AMRIZE  
ME

THAT  
PEOPLE LIKE  
DEADPOOL  
EXIST?

NOW, THAT  
WE CONTINUE  
TO SURVIVE IN A  
WORLD WHERE  
PEOPLE LIKE  
DEADPOOL  
EXIST!



WELL, LET'S JUST HOPE DART REMY FOLLOWS SUIT!

THIEVES

CHASING  
AN ASSASSIN

-- CHASING  
AN X-MAN AND  
A FEDERAL  
AGENT

NEW SON  
SURE DOES  
THROW AN  
INTERESTING  
PARTY

BUT IT  
ISN'T TIME  
TO CRASH  
IT JUST  
YET

THE CITY IS A MAZE OF  
HIDING PLACES... BUT  
WE CAN NEVER RUN  
FROM WHO WE FLEE.

I RECENTLY LEARNED  
THAT LESSON, REMY IS  
LEARNING IT TONIGHT.

I'M POSITIVE THAT  
X-CUTIONERS WILL TRACK HIS  
WIFEKIDNAPER'S SIGNATURE.

LEBEAU IS A MARKED MAN  
BOTH BY THE ACTIONS  
OF HIS LIFE

STAND AN  
ELEGANT  
BUT

THIS WAY,  
LENT



CERTAINLY  
BEEN AN  
INTERESTING  
FEW WEEKS,  
THAT'S FOR  
SURE!

MEANING I'M  
DON'T WANT TO  
TALK ABOUT IT.

YOU  
THINK YOUR  
WAYERS WERE  
HEARD?

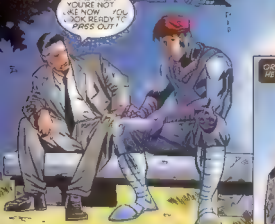
ALWAYS

BUT MORE  
N THAT RIGHT  
NOW

RED:  
FUNNY, WHEN  
YOU'RE USING  
YOUR POWERS  
YOU SEEM  
FINE.

AND WHEN  
YOU'RE NOT  
USING THEM  
YOU LOOK READY  
TO PASS OUT!

I JUST  
NEED TO  
CATCH MY  
BREATH

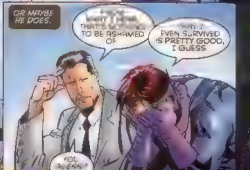


EVEN WITH  
EXPANDED POWERS,  
I STILL GOT IT  
HANDLED TO ME BY  
BULLSHIT

OR MAYBE  
HE DOES.

PROB-  
ABLY THAT'S  
WHAT I'M  
GOING TO  
BE ASHAMED  
OF

THAT I  
EVEN SURVIVED  
IS PRETTY GOOD,  
I GUESS



YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
I'M SAYING?

BEST  
I CAN DO  
RIGHT NOW  
IS TALKING  
TO YOU.

I MEAN  
I AM REALLY  
TIRED. LIFE  
IS TIRING, YOU  
KNOW?

YES.

YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
IT'S LIKE?  
I ALWAYS  
CARRY  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S  
LOAD





**A GOOD MAN  
SWIMMING IN  
THE PACE**

AND WHAT I SEE  
LOOKS AWFULLY  
SIMILAR TO ME.  
ONE MIGHT SAY  
IT LOOKS LIKE NO  
MIRROR.

**SHIRAZ**



VITE

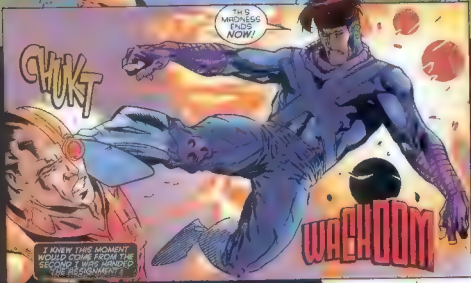
FIND  
OVER  
DENT

SLSS

I'VE HAD  
WAS ABOUT  
ENOUGH  
OF THIS  
T-NIGHT



YOU HEAR ME FARLEY?



THIS MADNESS ENDS NOW!

CHUNK

WAKIDOM

I KNEW THIS MOMENT WOULD COME FROM THE SECOND I WAS HANDED THE ASSIGNMENT



A PART OF ME WANTED TO SEE LIBEAU GO DOWN.

I COULD LET FARLEY GO, HE'D BE JUST THE DISTRACTION X-GUTTNER NEEDS TO TAKE Remy DOWN.



SHUT UP FARLEY, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER



LIBEAU MOVES



-- DRAWING  
X-CUTIONER  
AWAY FROM ME --

-- PROTECTING  
ME --

-- AND MAKING SURE  
I KEEP FARLEY OUT  
OF THE GAME.

WITH NO CIVILIANS AROUND  
THIS LATE IN THE NIGHT,  
GAMBIT REALLY LETS LOOSE.

LINE-OF-SIGHT KINETIC  
DISCHARGES -- INSTANTLY  
TRIGGERING THE LATENT  
KINETIC ENERGY IN THE  
MOLECULES OF ANYTHING  
HE LOOKS AT.



BEFORE, BLOWING UP AN  
ENTIRE CAR WOULD HAVE  
TAKEN A LOT OF TIME AND  
PHYSICAL CONTACT.

NOW, IT GOES UP  
FASTER THAN A  
BAD CHALUPA FROM  
TACO BELL.



I HEAR A FAMILIAR  
WHINE. X-CUTIONER  
RELEASED TWO SHAR  
PLASMA SLICERS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL  
NIGHT, I WONDER WHO  
IS INSIDE THAT ARMOR,  
AND HOW HE GOT  
HIS HANDS ON IT.

BUT IT'S SIMPLY A CLINICAL  
INTEREST, NO EMOTIONAL  
TIES, WHICH IS GOOD. MEANS  
I'M OKAY WITH BEING "JUST"  
CARL DENT! AGAIN.

AND I HAVE  
GAMBIT TO  
THANK FOR THAT.





I JUST HOPE HE MAKES  
IT THROUGH THE NIGHT  
SO I CAN THANK HIM  
IN PERSON.

I DRAG FARLEY'S BUTT  
DOWN THE STREET  
LOOKING FOR A PHONE  
TO CALL THE BOYS  
IN BLUE...

QUESTA  
IS RATHER  
MASCOTISTIC,  
PAPA? AS IF  
SEEING ONE  
REMY LEBEAU  
WEREN'T BAD  
ENOUGH!

ALLOW  
MY LIGHT  
BURST TO SPARE  
YOU FROM  
SEEING  
ANY!

THE  
ASSASSIN  
GUILD?

BUT IF THEY  
SUBCONTRACTED  
X-CUTIONER AN'  
BULLSEYE AN'  
BATROC AN'  
ALL TH' OTHERS ---

-- WHY  
WOULD THEY BE  
HELPIN' --

-- ME?

NOW,  
REMY, DARLIN'...  
Y' DIDN'T THINK  
I'D LET SOMEONE  
ELSE ---



